1st June 2020

What's going on this week?

The number of people seeking to start a career in the healthcare sector has risen during the pandemic, official figures reveal. Health leaders said the wish shown by thousands of people to help them to fight illness was "truly humbling".

The NHS Health Careers website has seen a 220% rise in people expressing an interest in becoming a nurse. There are fewer vacancies on NHS Jobs, an official website, because some hospitals and GP surgeries have paused non-essential recruitment. More than 11 million jobseekers have registered and 45,811 have applied for 1,472 roles that need filling urgently. This is nearly triple the normal rate per job!

This week's news story: https://bit.ly/2ApAccC
This week's useful video: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p06c9qw6

Main question:
Why do people choose the jobs they do?

Listen, think, share

- Read through this week's story and talk about what we can see in the image. Many people have expressed huge gratitude towards the NHS for their role and commitment during the coronavirus pandemic, do you think this is why so many people are interested in working in the healthcare sector in current times? Do you think there are any other reasons why people might want to work in healthcare right now?

- Do you find it surprising or not that many people are applying for jobs in this sector during a pandemic? Discuss your thoughts.

- Most healthcare jobs including nurses and doctors are classed as vocations, which means an occupation to which a person is specially drawn or for which they are suited, trained, or qualified. Can you think of any other jobs that would be classed as vocations?

- Can you make a list of reasons why people go into the job or career that they do? Think about factors such as location, jobs of family members and hobbies/interests. When you were younger, did you have any aspirations for a particular job? Can you remember what it was? Has this changed over time?

- New York Times Journalist, Adam Grant, wrote about his frustration around the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" in a recent article,
  "When I was a kid, I dreaded the question. I never had a good answer. Adults always seemed terribly disappointed that I wasn't dreaming of becoming something grand or heroic, like a filmmaker or an astronaut. My first beef with the question is that it forces kids to define themselves in terms of work. When you're asked what you want to be when you grow up, it's not socially acceptable to say, "A father," or, "A mother," let alone, "A person of integrity." This might be one of the reasons many parents say their most important value for their children is to care about others, yet their kids believe that top value is success. When we define ourselves by our jobs, our worth depends on what we achieve. The second problem is the implication that there is one calling out there for everyone. Although having a calling can be a source of joy, research shows that searching for one leaves students feeling lost and confused. And even if you're lucky enough to stumble onto a calling, it might not be a viable career."
  Do you agree that a better question to ask children would be what kind of person do you want to *be* rather than what job do you want to *do*? Do you think society places too much emphasis on careers and jobs for young people?

- The comedian Chris Rock on overhearing staff at school telling pupils that 'they could be anything they want to be' responded with, "Why are you lying to these children? Maybe four of them could be. But the other 2,000 had better learn how to weld. Tell the kids the truth. You can be anything you're good at – as long as they're hiring." Do you agree with Chris? Do you think this is a phrase we shouldn't be using, or do you think it's beneficial to aim high?

Further questions for discussion

- Do you think that people always have complete choice over the jobs or careers they do? Explain your thoughts.
- If you could do any job in the world, what would it be? Why?